



Office of CTE Newsletter  
February 9, 2023

This update is provided by the Indiana Office of Career and Technical Education, housed under the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. We welcome your support in encouraging anyone who would benefit from the information to join our listserv. Individuals can [sign up here](#). Questions can be shared with [CTE@gov.IN.gov](mailto:CTE@gov.IN.gov).

CTE Spotlight: National CTE Month

**A Message from State Director Anthony Harl:**

Happy National CTE Month! February offers an annual opportunity to join with those in the CTE community around the country in recognizing the many benefits of career and technical education.

One highlight of CTE Month is visiting with students in [career and technical student organizations \(CTSO's\)](#) during the annual CTSO day at the State House. The student representatives always do an excellent job showcasing the positive impact of CTE and their specific CTSO to legislators, state leaders, and others. Our team is looking forward to visiting with students next week and being reminded of the amazing impact CTE has on so many students' lives and career journeys.

That event is just one of the many reminders during this month of why it's such an exciting time to be part of CTE here in Indiana. Next Level Programs of Study are fully launched and already delivering results for students. Participation in CTE has never been higher as students, families, employers, and others continue to value the real-world experiences provided through CTE that directly connect education to career. Investment in CTE has never been stronger and state leaders are committed to finding ways for even more students to earn credentials of value and participate in work-based learning, internships, and apprenticeships during high school.

I wanted to take time this month to dive a bit deeper and share a few highlights of data and other facts around Indiana CTE:

- **65 redesigned secondary programs of study fully launched this year.** After an opt-in year in 2021-2022, this is the first school year that schools and career centers have begun offering courses through [Next Level Programs of Study](#). Old courses are still available for the next couple of years to ensure a smooth transition, but most schools and career centers have transitioned quickly. Over 200,000 of this year's CTE enrollments were in NLPS courses and data is already showing encouraging increases in the priority student outcomes behind the NLPS redesign.



CELEBRATE TODAY,  
OWN TOMORROW!

- **More students enrolled in CTE than ever before this year.** 228,254 students enrolled in at least one funded CTE course this school year, continuing the upward trend in recent years. This represents nearly 60% of all high school students in Indiana. With ongoing interest in CTE and [Graduation Pathways](#) coming on board, we expect this growth to continue.

Importantly, our enrollment data shows growth in high-demand areas that offer great opportunities for students and are vital to our state's economy. Industrial Automation and Robotics, Engineering, and Smart Manufacturing are just a few of the key programs that saw enrollment increases this year.

- **More students are earning CTE concentrator status.** Last school year, Indiana had over 34,000 seniors earn concentrator status, including 18,735 that met the more challenging Perkins V requirements (2 advanced courses) that were adopted in 2018 and are required beginning this year. This represents an increase of more than 6,000 students meeting the Perkins V requirements from the year prior. With Graduation Pathways a requirement and schools fully transitioning to NLPS, our expectation is that the number of Perkins V concentrators will increase significantly again this year.

And even more importantly, **students are seeing meaningful results from reaching concentrator status.** Our office just submitted the state's annual federal report of 2021-2022 data and here are a few initial highlights:

- o In 21-22 and 20-21, an average of **40% of CTE concentrators earned 9 or more dual credits** in their pathway. Dual credit has [many proven benefits](#) and reaching this level offers a huge leg up to students in obtaining a credential/degree.
- o We also saw a **6% increase in credential attainment** and a **8% increase in WBL participation** from 20-21 to 21-22.
- **CTE offers a jumpstart on earning college credits:** Often CTE is discussed as an alternative to college, but the vast majority of CTE programs are now directly aligned to two-year and in many cases four-year college programs. **Last year, 58% of all dual credit awarded by Ivy Tech was in CTE programs.** Thousands of students are taking advantage of the opportunity to complete college level classes while in high school, reducing the time and cost it takes to earn a credential. The college credit and stackable credentials earned prepares students to start a career and positions them to pursue additional certifications and degrees at any point after high school to advance in their career.
- **Indiana continues to invest in CTE:** A huge part of the success of CTE in Indiana is the continued investment at the state level into our CTE programs. Indiana invested nearly \$180 million in secondary CTE programs this year. Additional funding opportunities, such as the [Education Readiness Grant](#) or the Reserve Grants for CTE Districts, have helped schools start or expand programs in high-demand areas.

These results at the state level ultimately benefit individual students and their families, as well as industry and communities across Indiana. I encourage you to use this month to celebrate these success

stories happening within your school, career center, and broader community (Use #CTEMonth when posting on social media).

One specific way to celebrate the efforts of the CTE community is through the annual Awards for Excellence (AFE) program. AFE celebrates excellence in both secondary and postsecondary education in a variety of different categories. The student stories are always a particular highlight of this event. I encourage you to check out the links below on the many inspiring recipients from last year and learn how to nominate deserving individuals, programs, or partnerships for this year's ceremony.

Lastly, I want to thank the instructors, administrators, CTE directors, and others who ultimately make our CTE programs possible. A particular acknowledgment to school counselors during this National School Counselors Week who play such a vital role in helping students identify their career interests and realize how CTE can help them reach their goals. Each of your dedication, adaptability, and passion are what allows us to provide so many amazing opportunities to students.

Thanks again for all you do and happy National CTE Month!

### **2023 CTE Awards for Excellence**

The annual CTE Awards for Excellence celebrates accomplished secondary and postsecondary students, programs of study, employer partnerships and school counselors and career coaches in CTE throughout the state. The event will be held on May 3, 2023 in Indianapolis.

**Nominations for the awards are currently available through March 1.** Click on the links below for additional information on submitting a nomination.

- [Secondary Information and Nomination](#)
- [Postsecondary Information and Nomination](#)

The Awards for Excellence is a partnership between the Office of CTE and the [Indiana Association for Career and Technical Education \(IACTE\)](#). In advance of this year's ceremony and to commemorate CTE Month, IACTE has posted a recap video of the 2022 ceremony.

- [2022 Recap Video](#)

**2022 Awards for Excellence Winners:** IACTE has also posted a full list of the winners from the 2022 ceremony complete with a bio/description. You can find the 6 outstanding secondary students that were awarded last year and winners from the other secondary categories at the following link:

[Secondary Award Winners](#). Find the winners from the postsecondary categories at this link: [Postsecondary Award Winners](#).

### **Launch Pathways Initiative**

Five nationally recognized organizations recently announced [Launch](#), a college and career pathways initiative focused on ensuring every learner has access to high-quality and equitable pathways. Indiana has been selected as one of 7 states for the initial Impact Cohort. Each state has been selected because of their foundational work in creating pathways and enabling conditions that have built connections between secondary systems, postsecondary institutions and employers.

The Office of CTE is excited to be a part of the Indiana's team led by IDOE and the East Central Educational Service Center. Over the next two years, the Indiana team will work to evaluate, strengthen and scale our current college and career pathways systems. This will include Next Level Programs of Study and the Indiana College Core. To learn more, [click here](#).

---